

Ellesmere Port Urban District
Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1945

by

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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INTRODUCTION

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ELLESmere PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1945.

The Report now appears in its complete unrestricted form.

The general state of health both National and Local continues at a "satisfactory level," in spite of six years under war-time conditions.

The Vital Statistics of the Urban District are as follows :—

The Death Rate is 9.28 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 9.0 for 1944. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.4; whilst the Death Rate for 148 smaller towns is 12.3.

The Birth Rate is 20.43 per 1,000 population; in 1944 the rate was 22.44. The rate for England and Wales (1945) is 16.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 46.85 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1944 was 34.3, and for 1943 was 71.3. The rate for England and Wales (1945) is 46.0.

Infectious Diseases showed a sharp rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Measles during the early months of the year. This coincided with a similar rise throughout the country.

The number of other Infectious Diseases remained low. It is gratifying to note that only 20 cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Urban District during the year.

Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis show no marked variation from previous years.

Verminous Conditions continued to be treated at the Council's Scabies Clinic, where Scabies and Head Lice received attention.

Head Lice were also treated at the two Day Nurseries.

The figures for Scabies show a considerable decrease from the previous year.

Housing problems of course are a major concern of the Department, as elsewhere; and the relief of overcrowding should be the first aim in the re-housing programme. Overcrowding is a menace to the health and well-being of the community, and reacts particularly on the healthy development of young children.

The Sanitary Department has been fully occupied and attention paid to the various duties carried out. Rats and Mice destruction scheme has worked admirably in its first full year of operation by this Authority. Co-operation is maintained by the department with the County Council and adjoining Local Authorities.

Regular inspection of Foodstuffs, sampling of milk are carried out during routine work. Special visits are also paid to food premises at the request of shop-keepers, to examine foodstuffs which are suspected of being unsound.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kershaw, the staff of the Public Health Department, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for the satisfactory state of the Health services of the Urban District which they maintained during my absence on War Service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

ELLESmere PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1945.

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton, also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (*Now serving in H.M. Forces*).

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

K. C. KERSHAW, M.R.C.S. (ENG.) L.R.C.P. (LOND.)

Orthopaedic Surgeon : J. L. GILLETT, M.B., CH.B.

Aural Surgeon : R. MARTIN, M.B., B.CH.

Gynaecologist : MORRIS DATNOW, M.B., F.R.C.S., (Edin).

Chief Sanitary Inspector : E. TUFT, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : J. P. GODDARD, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
(*Now serving in H. M. Forces*).

Additional Sanitary Inspector : W. CORNELIUS, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk in the Department : R. K. FRANCIS (*Now serving in H.M. Forces*).

Pupil Inspector : D. E. JONES.

Shorthand-Typist : MISS E. WHEELER.

Temporary Clerk : MISS R. LLOYD.

Senior Health Visitor : MISS M. B. REDFERN.

Assistant Health Visitors : MISS K. MCKEE. MISS L. M. BATE.

Clerk, Welfare Centre : MISS B. ISAACS.

All Officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,160
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses in the area (1941)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,151
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£200,855
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£820

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Year.	Population.	Natural Increase per 1,000	Year.	Population.	Natural Increase per 1,000
		Pop.			Pop.
1930	18,300	14.1	1938	26,030	7.03
1931	19,080	15.0	1939	26,920	11.75
1932	19,320	14.2	1940	28,160	9. 8
1933	23,190	19.5	1941	28,530	9.25
1934	24,730	11.6	1942	27,950	11.16
1935	24,840	9.7	1943	27,560	15. 5
1936	25,100	10.9	1944	27,220	13.44
1937	25,610	8.9	1945	27,160	10. 9

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) 1930—1945 (England and Wales).

Year.	Population.	Per 1,000	Year	Population	Per 1,000
		Population.			Population
1930	...	4.9	1938	...	3.5
1931	...	3.5	1939	...	2.9
1932	...	3.3	1940	...	0.3
1933	...	2.1	1941	...	1.3
1934	...	3.0	1942	...	4.2
1935	...	2.9	1943	...	4.4
1936	...	2.7	1944	...	6.0
1937	...	2.7	1945	...	4.7

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1945.

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	249	253	502
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	19	53
							—	—	—
							283	272	555
							—	—	—

Birth Rate 20.43 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1945) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)—19.2

STILL BIRTHS

							Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	8	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
							—	—	—
							17	9	26
							—	—	—

Still Birth rate 44.79 per 1,000 total live and still births or .96 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1930—44 was 512.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

1930—1944.

Year.	Number.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Number.	Birth Rate.
1930	435	23. 8	1938	476	18.28
1931	458	24. 0	1939	543	20.25
1932	442	22. 9	1940	566	20.09
1933	467	20. 1	1941	565	19.80
1934	518	20. 9	1942	538	19.96
1935	470	18. 9	1943	603	21.87
1936	503	20.04	1944	611	22.44
1937	483	18.86			

Birth Rate England and Wales 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Birth Rate England and Wales 1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.6
Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1944	18.3

DEATHS.

Males ... 143	Females ... 109	Total 252
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Death Rate 9.28 per 1,000 population.

*TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CRUDE DEATH RATES
1930 — 1944.*

Year.	Number.	Death Rate.	Year.	Number.	Death Rate.
1930	178	9. 7	1938	293	11.26
1931	169	8. 9	1939	229	8.50
1932	171	8. 9	1940	291	10. 3
1933	222	9. 6	1941	301	10. 5
1934	231	9. 3	1942	246	8.79
1935	229	9. 2	1943	276	10.01
1936	227	9. 0	1944	245	9.00
1937	254	9.91			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1930—1944 was 234.

The percentage of deaths occurring in Public Institutions was 44.4 per cent.

Death Rate — England and Wales 11.4 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate — 148 smaller towns 12.3 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES

		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	Rate per 1,000 live Births.
	Deaths.	Births.	Births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	... 1	1.72	1.80
Other Puerperal Causes	... 2	3.44	3.60
	—	—	—
	3	5.16	5.40
	—	—	—

The figures for England and Wales were :—

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0.24
Other Puerperal Causes	1.22
	<hr/>
	1.46
	<hr/>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Number.	Rate.
All infants per 1,000 live births	26	46.85
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	20	39.84
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	6	113. 2

The figures for England and Wales were :—

All Engand and Wales	46. 0
148 Smaller towns (estimated resident population 25,000 — 50,000 Census 1931)	43. 0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	54. 0
London (Administrative County)	53. 0

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1930 — 1944.

Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1930	44. 0	1938	48. 3
1931	68. 0	1939	58.93
1932	68. 0	1940	63. 3
1933	75. 0	1941	72. 9
1934	48.26	1942	35. 8
1935	44. 6	1943	71. 3
1936	51. 7	1944	34. 3
1937	66. 2		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			44

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

All Causes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	6	5	11
7. Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	2	2
8. Syphilis	1	—	1
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	1	—	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	1	—	1
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of the Mouth, Oesophagus, Uterus	4	—	4
14. Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	5	4	9
15. Cancer of the Breast	—	—	—
16. Other forms of Cancer	19	12	31
17. Diabetes	—	1	1
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	13	14	27
19. Heart Disease	41	29	70
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	6	2	8
21. Bronchitis	5	6	11
22. Pneumonia	5	1	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	2	4
26. Appendicitis	2	—	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
28. Nephritis	3	2	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis	—	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
31. Premature Birth	2	5	7
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc.	6	2	8
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	1
35. Other Violent Causes	5	6	11
36. All Other Causes	11	8	19
	143	109	252

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available :—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examinations of water; also the Bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District. Similarly the cost of the Bacteriological examination of throat swabs for suspected cases of Diphtheria, and the necessary investigation of any serious Infectious Disease epidemic is borne by the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester Laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their Officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 87.

There were 86 throat swabs of which two were returned positive and 84 negative, also one nasal swab which was also returned negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 36. Of these three were returned positive and 33 negative. There was in addition, a further specimen examined at Chester Royal Infirmary. This proved negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, the Wirral Joint Hospital Board provides motor ambulances for the removal of patients and for the removal of bedding for steam disinfection.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Urban District provides two motor ambulances for the use in connection with the District Hospital, Whitby. The Clatterbridge (County) General has four motor ambulances.

The Ambulance services are very satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation. During the year 1943 the services of a District Nurse were obtained for the Parish of Little Sutton. This now appears satisfactory.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* There are no arrangements made for nursing Infectious cases in the home. In cases of Pneumonia the services of the District Nurse are available.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened in Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic with the Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held in the Welfare Centre.

HOSPITALS.

The Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital was appropriated for Public Health Purposes on the 1st April, 1935, being formerly known as the Clatterbridge (Wirral) Infirmary.

Maternity. Provision is made for maternity accommodation in the Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital, where the patients are under the supervision of the consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-natal Clinics. In this block there are 34 beds.

In addition there is a separate Maternity Home, the "Garth," at Neston, also under the supervision of the County Council.

The services of the consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist are available at the Ante-natal Clinic held weekly at the Welfare Centre and at any time if required in an emergency by a general practitioner in the district.

Children. Facilities exist for convalescent treatment of children needing such seen by the Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre. When such cases occur every endeavour is made to get them accommodated in the West Kirby Convalescent Home.

Scabies. The Scabies Centre which was opened in 1943 at the Central Hall, Ellesmere Port, continues to operate on the same lines as previously. The staff consists of three nurses and a cleaner and at least four sessions a week are held. 131 new cases were reported last year and 1,992 treatments given.

Head Lice. Facilities are available at the Scabies Clinic for the treatment of Head Lice where this occurs in patients attending for treatment.

In addition, each of the Wartime Nurseries have routine examination of heads and treatments are given as required, e.g. during 1945 48 heads were found to be verminous in the Nursery at Ellesmere Port and 29 in the Nursery at Little Sutton.

The treatment consists of routine washing with Derbac Soap and combing with a metal Derbac comb together with the use of the standard treatment of Lethane Oil as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Fevers. The Wirral Joint Isolation Board serves the District for Infectious Disease Cases. The District of such Board comprises the Wirral Area of the Administrative County of Cheshire, including Chester Rural District.

The main Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Board is situated at Clatterbridge and has the following accommodation :—

- 24 Beds for Diphteria.
- 26 Beds for Scarlet Fever.
- 12 Cubicles for Isolation, 14 beds.
- 3 small wards of 12 beds each, 36 beds to be used as required.

Provision has been made to receive Encephalitis patients and under certain conditions beds may be available for Measles and Whooping Cough.

Ellesmere Port and District Hospital: This Hospital contains 36 beds and eight cots. It is managed by a voluntary Board.

The staff consists of the Local Medical Practitioners, a Resident Doctor, a Matron, five qualified nurses, eight unqualified nurses and one Masseuse.

The visiting staff consists of one Physician, two Surgeons, one Gynaecologist, one Ophthalmic Surgeon, one Aural Surgeon, one Orthopaedic Surgeon, one Radiologist and one Anaesthetist.

Arrangements exist between the Hospital and the Council whereby children can be sent by the Medical Officer from the Welfare Centre for courses of artificial sunlight treatment.

MIDWIVES.

There are sixteen midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

A list of local and general Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws is included in the report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply practically all the entire area (with the exception of Ince), and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains, with the exception of a group of sixteen cottages in Stanney Lane which are supplied by three stand-pipes, a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one stand-pipe, a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one stand-pipe, a cottage in Great Stanney and a house in Little Sutton which obtains it's supply from a private well.

At Ince, water is supplied by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936, through stand-pipes, by means of a bulk supply obtained from the Chester Rural District Council. In addition a number of houses now have an internal supply.

The water comes in piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. At the Hooton station the water goes through the softening process but at Prenton and Mouldsworth softening operations have been temporarily suspended.

During the year 65 samples were taken for Bacteriological examination and nine samples for Chemical analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample, (taken at random) of water for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on 1st February, 1945, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 65 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended, is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample, also taken at random, from the pumping station at Hooton on 26th February, 1945, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other 8 samples for chemical analysis made during the year, with the exception of the fact that all the samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton pumping stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE EXAMINATIONS OF A
SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received 2/2/45, from West Cheshire Water Board.

Labelled : Mouldsworth Pumping Station. Flamed tap in softening house.

Raw water before chlorination.

Date : 1/2/45; 11-45 a.m. Taken by : C. Hardman.

Witness : S. Crawford. Signed : C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 370 C. in one day	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or mililitre of water growing upon Agar at 370 C. in two days	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or mililitre of water growing upon Agar at 200 C. in three days	1
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 370 C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) ...	Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a very satisfactory sample of raw water. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. These results are consistant with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) : Charles W. Martin, F.R.I.C.,
Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS ON THE EXAMINATION OF A
SAMPLE OF WATER.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 27th February, 1945, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Filtered, softened and chlorinated.

Taken by : C. Hardman. Witness : T. T. Lunt.

Date : 26/2/45; 1 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per
100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright.
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	Normal. Odour Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	...	...	...	...	Neutral 7.4. Free Carbonic Acid 1.3.
Electric Conductivity at 20°c.	...	...	680.	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	23.0.		
Total Solids, 180°c.	...	...	...	45.5.			
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	9.1.			
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0.08.	Nitrites absent.		
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	...	0.0	(Grains per gallon).		
Hardness: Temporary	...	...	...	13.0	(Grains per gallon).		
Total	...	...	...	13.0	(Grains per gallon).		
Metals	...	...	...	Absent.			
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen —		
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen. —		
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°c.	0.000.						

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is of very moderate hardness, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

(Signed) : Charles W. Martin, F.R.I.C.,
Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board :—

- (1) *Particulars of any new source of public supply.*

None relative to this undertaking.

- (2) *Improvements to existing sources of public supply.*

Chemical and Bacteriological analysis reports throughout the year have been of satisfactory order, and distribution has been maintained throughout the district.

- (3) *Any important extension of mains.*

Housing Sites within the area of administration of your Council, comprising the following Estates :—

(a) Wolverham.

(b) Stanney.

(c) Overpool.

- (4) *Have piped supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity?*

There has been, and in some cases there still exists, a large demand for metered trade supplies, which have in some localities caused diminution in pressures, but generally speaking, relative to the area with which you are concerned, the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

- (5) *Is any part of the district in need of an improved water supply?*

I am not aware of any complaints having been received relative to the general question of water supply in the Ellesmere Port area, but occasional complaints have been received concerning the hardness of the water.

LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE
 (so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act. 1914.			
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	Adopted 1901
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	(Parts 2, 3, 4, 5)	...	"
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907	(Parts 2, 4 and 6)	...	1902
Public Libraries Act, 1892	...	...	1909
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the district	...	...	"
Public Health Act, 1925 (Part 2 except section 20).	...	...	1911
		...	1937

Subject Matter.	Authority by whom made.	Area in which in force.	Date.	Date of Confirmation.
Libraries .	... Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	... Whole Urban Area ditto.	30/11/1936 25/ 1/1937	13/1/1937 31/5/1937
Pleasure Grounds ...	... Ellesmere Port and Whitby U.D.C.	Parishes of Ellesmere and Great Stanney ...	Port 26/10/1925	12/1/1926
New Streets and Buildings ...	Ellesmere Port and Whitby U.D.C.	Parishes of Great Sutton Little Sutton and Hooton ...	2/1923	5/4/1922
Tents, Vans and similar structures ...	Wirral Rural District Council ..	ditto.	19/11/1923	15/1/1925
Omnibuses ...	... ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	8/1/1925
Offensive Trades ...	... ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Buildings of Earth ...	... ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Cleansing of Earth ...	... ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Privies, Ashpits & Cesspools	Chester Rural District Council ...	Parish of Ince ...	28/ 2/1923	28/4/1924
Building ByeLaws.	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area ...	29/ 1/1940	11/7/1940

*These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Summary of Inspections.

*Result of Service of
Notices and Number
Served.*

Nature of Inspections.	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	in hand	Remaining
Dwelling Houses (General)	219	219	19	168	—	51
Revisits to work in progress	898	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Caravans	17	10	—	10	—	—
Back Yards	748	565	3	541	24	—
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, etc. ...	15	6	—	6	—	—
Drainage Inspections	37	13	—	13	—	—
Drainage Tests	7	3	—	3	—	—
Ditches and Watercourses	30	9	1	8	1	—
Offensive Accumulations	13	5	—	5	—	—
Keeping of Animals	11	5	—	5	—	—
Offensive Trades	4	—	—	—	—	—
Food Premises	247	24	—	20	4	—
Factories (Mobile)	7	5	—	4	1	—
Factories (Non-Mobile)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	15	3	—	3	—	—
Cowsheds	71	1	—	1	—	—
Dairies and Purveyors' Premises ...	31	2	—	2	—	—
Canal Boats	105	—	5	4	1	—
Infectious Diseases.						
Enquiries ...	287	—	—	—	—	—
Other visits ...	43	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfections ...	345	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	105	54	—	54	—	—
Disinfestations	199	—	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	60	108	1	108	—	—
Scabies.						
Enquiries ...	39	—	—	—	—	—
Other Visits ...	35	—	—	—	—	—
Samples of milk submitted for Bacteriological examination ...	49	—	—	—	—	—
Interviews. (Outside Office)	173	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal Site	9	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits	422	11	1	11	—	—
TOTALS ...	4243	1043	30	966	82	

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

In two instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council to the Owners concerned, in respect of the non-compliance with Statutory Notices served upon them under this Act, prior to any legal proceeding being instituted against them. One notice was complied with satisfactorily and in the remaining instance a prosecution was necessary. This case proved successful.

Certificates have again been issued during the year to local builders, in support of their applications for controlled materials, to enable them to carry out essential repairs to property in this district. Each application was successful.

Housing conditions generally, still cause concern to the department and many cases of overcrowding are being reported. The Standard of Maintenance repairs to property is still below that of pre-war level, due mainly to shortage of labour and materials.

During the year under review 489 dust-bins were supplied and delivered to premises on receiving payment from the Owners, in order to enable them to comply with the Notices served. Difficulty has been experienced in endeavouring to keep pace with this important matter, owing to the delay in securing delivery of the bins from the manufacturers.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises, 460 verbal complaints were given at the office. This is an increase over the previous year's figure.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Other Houses	...	...	...	...	...	28
(c) Number Disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	36
(d) Total visits	...	...	...	...	...	145

The number of Council houses treated shew a decrease of two over the previous year. Non-Council houses shew an increase of three. It is regretted that the standard of cleanliness in certain sections of the district still remains unsatisfactory.

The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed-bugs consisted during the greater portion of the year under review, as for the previous year namely, (1) the removal of picture moulding, architraves and skirting-boards; (2) the walls ceilings and floors, etc., sprayed with a fluid insecticide (Zaldecide and Killgercide), (3) bedding removed and subjected to steam disinfection.

Towards the close of the year the new insecticide D.D.T., was made available for civilian use and full advantage has been taken of this by the department. The cost of the new insecticide is greater than that of the other types, nevertheless, it is not now necessary to cause the removal of wood-work in the infested rooms, due to the delayed action of D.D.T., which may remain active for a period of three months.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority through the staff of the Sanitary Department.

STEAM DISINFECTION OF BEDDING.

The arrangements in being with the Sanitary Department, Bebington, still continued to operate satisfactorily.

98 beds and bedding and 28 blankets were removed for steam disinfection at the expense of the Local Authority.

The cost for the year in carrying out this work was £50.18s.8d.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the district. The works at Little Stanney were newly erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town works, were re-constructed and designed for a population of 7,000. A small area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The Parish of Ince is rural in character and completely unsewered. The most recent dwellings erected in Ince are drained to approved septic tanks and filter beds, the effluent being discharged into the nearby watercourse. It is hoped that the Council in the near future, will seriously consider the question of the sewerage of this part of the district.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the district during the year :

Foul water sewers ...	... ...	2,325	Lineal yards.
Surface water sewers	... ...	3,137	Lineal yards.
			—
	Total ...	5,462	Lineal yards.
			—

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered partly by oil works and partly by fenny lands. It is tide-locked, where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not yet available some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

SWIMMING POOL.

The Rivacre Valley Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Council Secondary Schools, nine Council Primary Schools and four Denominational Schools in the district.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on the occurrence of cases of Infectious Diseases in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the school rooms are thoroughly disinfected.

CANAL BOATS.

105 boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 276 adults and 160 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 179 adults and 85 children.

Five Statutory Notices were served and one remained in hand at the close of the year.

H O U S I N G

1.	<i>INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.</i>		
1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	219	
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	898	
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil.	
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.	
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.	
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12	
2.	<i>REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.</i>		
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	12	
3.	<i>ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.</i>		
<i>A.</i>	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices	Nil.	
	(a) By Owners	Nil.	
	(b) By Local Authority	Nil.	
<i>B.</i>	<i>Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22	

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) Remaining in hand	8

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, but tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 36 registered cowkeepers, 15 dairies and 14 milk-shops in the district. In addition 16 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside and there are two registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

The Register shows the following entries:—

Cowkeepers (Wholesale Producers)	26
Cowkeepers (Retail Producers)	10
Dairies and Milk Shops	29
<hr/>	
Total Registered Milk Dealers in the district	65
Wholesalers resident outside the district	2
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside	14
<hr/>	
Total number of Milk Dealers on the Register	81
<hr/>	

49 samples of milk were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Each sample taken at the farm was done so during the early morning milking and examined as follows:—

Accredited Farms—Standard for this designation plus examination for Tuberculosis.

Commercial Farms—Tuberculosis, *Bacillus coli* and Colony Count.

Of the 36 samples examined for Tuberculosis, one was reported positive and 26 negative. In the remaining 9 instances, the guinea pigs died too soon for an examination to be made. In regard to the positive sample, the report received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries stated, "there was no clinical evidence to justify individual sampling and two cows had been sold for slaughter since the original sample was taken."

Of the 49 samples so examined on the standard of cleanliness, 33 or 67 per cent were satisfactory. The number taken for examination shew a decrease over the previous year's figure due to staff shortage which has since been rectified.

Three dealer's licenses were issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Assistant County Sanitary Officer in matters relative to accredited farms and this is greatly appreciated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food Premises. No applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review.

There are 58 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Careful attention has been paid to all food premises and 247 visits were paid during the year. The standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

61 special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the owners and the following foods were rejected:—

15 (6lb.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
2 (4lb.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
33 (2½lb.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
16 (1½lb.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
54 (1lb.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
72 (12oz.) tins Meat (Various Types).		
146 tins Vegetables.	92 tins Milk.	
32 tins Soup.	9 tins Jam.	164 tins Fish.
10lb. Liver.	2 sacks of Potatoes.	205 Eggs.
1 jar Mixed Pickle.	14 tins Cake and Pudding Mixture	
—Blown tins and Decomposition.		
3lb. Macaroni.	1 pkt. Dried Eggs.	23 Cauliflowers.
2 cases Oranges.	2 pkts. Pudding	15 pkts. Friquix.
1 case Lemons.	Mixture.	7 stone Salted
25 pkts. Bun and	8 (25lb) pkts.	Herrings.
Cake Flour.	Raisons.	10 stone Smoked
47 pkts. Table	40 lbs. Imported Pigs	Cutlets.
Desserts.	Liver.	

—Unfit for Human Consumption.

Total Weight (Approx.): 18 cwts. 2 qrs. ½ lb.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

List of Samples obtained in the Ellesmere Port Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Name of Sample	Number of samples obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard or quality
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1	...
Boracic Ointment ...	1	...
Butter ...	1	...
Barley ...	1	...
Curry Powder ...	1	...
Cheese ...	1	...
Castor Oil ...	1	...
Cinnamon. Ground ...	1	...
Camphorated Oil ...	1	...
Coffee ...	4	...
Cooking Fat ...	1	...
Epsom Salts ...	1	...
Fish Paste ...	3	...
Forcemeat	1	...
Glycerine ...	2	...
Ginger. Ground ...	1	...
Milk ..	43	5
Meat Paste ...	2	...
Margarine ...	1	...
Malt Loaf ...	1	...
Mustard ..	1	...
Parsley. Dried ...	1	...
Paraffin. Medical ...	1	...
Semolina ...	1	...
Sugar ...	1	...
Soup Powder ...	1	...
Saccharin ...	1	...
Salt ...	1	...
Sage. Dried ...	1	...
Spice. Mixed ...	1	...
Tea ...	1	...
Wintergreen Ointment ...	1	...
Zinc Ointment ...	1	...
	82	5

With the exception of five milks all the samples were certified as up to the legal standard or (where no legal standard exists) to the recognised standard of commercial purity.

Particulars regarding the five non-standard samples are shown as follows :—

No. Article.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1. Milk.	Contained 11 per cent of extraneous water.	
2. Milk.	Contained 7 per cent of extraneous water.	
3. Milk.	Contained 12.1 per cent of extraneous water.	Fined £1 and £1.1.0. costs.
4. Milk.	Contained 9.8 per cent of extraneous water.	Fined £1 and £1.1.0. costs. These samples were taken in course of delivery from a farmer to the seller of samples 1 and 2. Subsequently an "appeal to cow" sample was taken from the farmer's cows but this proved to be genuine.
5. Milk.	Contained 3.5 per cent of extraneous water.	Retail sale. Seller was cautioned.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

This important work with the Council acting as Agents for the Cheshire County Council still continues to operate successfully. The Council, as will be remembered in the previous year's report, are responsible for rats and mice destruction on non-agricultural land, throughout the district.

A number of contracts have been entered into during the year for rats and mice destruction both on business premises and private dwelling-houses.

Two rodent operatives are employed and they have been fully occupied during the year under review.

3,719 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives with 256 poisoning campaigns. The total amount of "poison take," i.e. poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was, Zinc Phosphide 71lbs. 3ozs., Arsenic 5lb. 14oz., Red Squill 23lbs. 8oz. In addition, four treatments have been given with Cymag Gas.

The efficiency of a campaign is arrived at by the "poison take" and subsequent prebaiting, and not by the number of dead rats or mice picked up. The amount of poison taken is greater than that of the previous year.

A formula for the calculation of estimated kill for the common rat, has been prepared by the Ministry of Food Infestation Branch, when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used. Upon the results of the take of these two poisons in campaigns, a total kill of 3,082 rats is arrived at for the year. The number of bodies actually picked up were 568 rats and 215 mice.

A maintenance treatment upon the various lengths of sewers has also been carried out with "no take" recorded in each instance. This proved very satisfactory.

It is pleasing to report that the efficiency of the scheme has been the subject of comment through an early edition of a monthly journal circulated to all Local Authorities by the Ministry of Food.

With the concentration in this work now been undertaken, it is to be hoped that the time will arrive when the rat population will be reduced to an absolute minimum.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1934-1945 is shown in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1934	0.00	3.39	4.45	0.08	0.32		
1935	0.00	10.50	8.60	0.00	0.56		
1936	0.00	3.82	5.06	0.04	0.27		
1937	0.00	5.85	7.77	0.00	0.16		
1938	0.00	13.7	9.08	0.15	0.26		
1939	0.00	3.30	2.08	0.14	0.33		
1940	0.00	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	0.00	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	0.00	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	.07
1943	0.00	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	0.00	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	0.62	0.47
1945	0.00	9.46	0.73	0.00	0.22	10.19	0.00

The corresponding rates for England and Wales are as follows:—

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1934	0.04	3.76	1.70	0.03	0.51		
1935	0.00	2.96	1.60	0.04	0.42		
1936	0.00	2.53	1.39	0.06	0.40		
1937	0.00	2.33	1.49	0.05	0.37		
1938	0.00	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40		
1939	0.00	1.89	1.14	0.04	0.34		
1940	0.00	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	0.00	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	0.00	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	0.00	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	0.00	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49
1945	0.00	1.89	0.46	0.02	0.25	11.67	1.64

There were no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1945. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births (live and still) is 9.93

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1945.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	257	249	—
Diphtheria	20	20	1
Pneumonia	2	1	—
Measles	277	3	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningitis	1	1	—
Erysipelas	6	5	—
Infantile Paralysis	1	1	—
	564	280	2

Of the 20 cases of Diphtheria 9 were stated to have been immunised.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease	North East		South		West		North West		South		Victoria		Stanley		Hooton		Childer Thornton		Great Sutton		Grange		Ince		Total	
	North East	South	South	West	North West	South	Victoria	Stanley	South	South	Victoria	Stanley	Hooton	Childer Thornton	South	South	South	South	South	South	South	Ince	Ince	Total	Total	
Scarlet Fever	12	20	—	59	27	12	38	13	5	24	3	6	38	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	257	20	
Diphtheria	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	24	—	56	28	17	76	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	277	
Measles	9	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Infantile Paralysis	—	1	—	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	30	49	121	60	31	121	22	6	35	19	81	12	587													

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.		Deaths		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15 years	—	—	—	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 45 years	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 — 11wards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	11	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Dr. J. A. Gillet reports as follows :—

I have the honour to report on the work done at the Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic clinic during the twelve months ended December, 1945.

Nineteen sessions have been held at which 113 new cases have been seen and 344 re-examinations made — an average of 24 cases per session.

These figures are given below in greater detail :—

New Cases	In relation to School Age :					
	Under.	Of.	Over.			
Non-Tuberculous	68	42	0		
Tuberculous	1	1	1		
<i>Re-Examinations</i>						
Non-Tuberculous	137	194	0		
Tuberculous	1	11	1		

Table 1 shows all cases on the clinic register arranged into disease categories and age groups. The number of cases discharged are also shown, the reason for discharge being given.

The work done by the Massage and Remedial Exercise Department (twice weekly sessions) continued to give great help in preventive and curative treatment.

1091 treatments have been given to the 89 cases on the Massage Register, 28 new cases have been referred for treatment and 11 discharged.

It has not been possible to give the return for massage in Table 2 on the lines of previous years, as the figures are not available owing to the fact that the attendances have not been grouped into diagnosis.

ELLESMERES PORT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Return for the Year 1945.

Visits by the Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Attendances by the Orthopaedic Sister	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New Cases examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Re-Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	344

Massage and Remedial Exercise Department.

In relation to School Age :

	Under.	Of.	Total.
Number of patients treated	...	10	79
Number of patients treated	89
Number of attendances of Cases	...	45	1046
Number of New Cases referred for treatment	...	1	27
Number of Cases in which treatment has been terminated	...	1	10
			11

TABLE 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES.	Remaining 1945		New Cases 1945		Remaining 1946		Discharged, 1945.	
	In relation to School Age		In relation to School Age		In relation to School Age		Died	
	Under	Over	Under	Over	Under	Over	Refused	Treatment Unsuitable
Infantile Paralysis	1	6	—	—	2	1	—	—
Spastic Paralysis	2	1	—	—	1	4	—	—
Rickets	3	5	2	1	1	1	—	—
Tuberculous Osteitis & Arthritis	2	1	1	1	—	3	2	—
Non-Tuberculous -do-	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Deformities—Congenital	16	10	17	4	—	25	8	—
Deformities—Acquired	48	49	44	37	—	69	2	—
Diagnosis	10	8	5	—	—	11	6	—
TOTALS	...	...	82	81	1	69	43	1
					115	86	2	2
					17	4	4	43
						6	6	—

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1945.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following report is supplied by the Senior Health Visitor.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS AND HEALTH VISITING.

During the year 555 births were notified, of these 26 were still-births.

195 of these occurred in Clatterbridge Hospital.

18 in Heathfield Maternity Home.

8 in Chester Nursing Home.

2 in Greystones Nursing Home.

2 in Chester City Hospital.

2 in Egerton Park Nursing Home.

2 in Hoole Nursing Home.

7 occurred in Maternity Homes in other parts of the country, where the mothers were staying at the time of birth.

8226 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the homes during the year as follows :—

1st visits to infants	600.
Revisits to infants	2395.
Revisits to children 1—5 years	4418.
Infant Life Protection visits	25.
Pre-natal visits	308.
Incidental visits	480
	—
	8226.
	—

Routine visits are paid at regular intervals to babies from the time the midwife finishes her attendance till the child enters school at five years of age.

Instructions and advice are given on the care and management of young children, diet, general rules of health and hygiene — the primary object being the prevention of ill-health and disease. For this purpose information is given systematically on vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria. Minor ailments are dealt with, but in more serious

conditions the mother is always advised to see her own doctor. Any sanitary defects found in the house are referred to the Sanitary Inspector. The advice of the nurse is often sought on matters relating to the family budget, economic difficulties and other domestic problems.

All mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic are visited in their homes if they do not appear at the Clinic at regular intervals.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

345 mothers attended for the first time.

1373 further attendances were made.

8 mothers attended for a post-natal examination.

1726

This is a very busy clinic as so much personal attention must be given to each patient. A detailed history is taken, urine tests are made and blood pressure taken of all new patients and any who show abnormal symptoms.

STILL-BIRTHS.

26 still-births were registered—these were due to the following causes.

Abnormality of foetus	7.
Ante-partum haemorrhage	5.
No apparent cause	5.
Long and difficult labour	3.
Albuminuria	5.
Pre-natal shock	1.

13 of these attended the Ante-Natal Clinic In
11 cases their confinement took place in hospital.

Of the thirteen who attended the Ante-Natal Clinic,

4 were due to Ante-Partum haemorrhage.

4 to abnormality of foetus.

3 to albuminuria.

1 to long and difficult labour.

1 to pre-natal shock.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

26 infants died under the age of one year.

2 children died between the age of one and five years.

The following shows the causes of deaths:—

Under One Year:

Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	..	...	...	5
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	6
Primary Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1

Under One Year (Continued).

Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cardiac Weakness	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidental Death	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Respiratory Failure	...	...	...	...	...	1
Precipital Labour	...	...	...	...	...	1

Over One Year:

Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shock—Misadventure	...	...	...	...	...	1

Twenty of these deaths occurred during the first three months, of these, 12 died in the first week and 16 in the first month.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

19 babies were born before full term. 5 only under 28 weeks. Of these 7 died in the first week, 3 in hospital the others being under the care of their own doctor. All the others are thriving, many of them attending the Welfare Centre and some being breast fed.

7 only, attended the Ante-Natal Clinic and all had received Ante-Natal care from their midwife.

4 had received medical attention.

6 babies weighed 4lbs. and under. 4 of these died during the first week. The other two are doing well.

One only of these babies was illegitimate, being born in Clatterbridge Hospital and dying within 24 hours.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

569 children under five years were inoculated against Diphtheria.

74 school-children were also done.

An arrangement is made with the Head Teacher to give the mother a consent form when the child enters school. If this is signed the teacher brings down her new children at the beginning of each term.

We are trying to send all children into school protected against Diphtheria. To this end we have achieved the rate of 90 per cent made safe. This means that fewer school-children have to attend the clinic for the first time, which accounts for the lower figure of attendance this year.

Measles—49 children were visited.

Whooping Cough—10 children were visited.

Chicken Pox—1 child was visited.

Scarlet Fever—1 child was visited.

AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held monthly.

116 children attended for the first time.

37 revisits were made making a total attendance of 153.

Children requiring daily attention respond quickly to treatment. Those who do not attend regularly are visited in their homes and encouraged to take advantage of the facilities offered.

92 of these treatments were given.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

3 sessions are held in two months on Monday afternoons.

2 sessions are held for massage and remedial exercises on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

A separate report is given by Dr. Gillett.

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of the Physio-Therapist in this department. Miss Fergusson had attended here twice weekly for the past 20 years. Her gentleness and understanding of them endeared her to the many children who passed through her skilful hands. She had a dignity and courtesy rarely met with in these days, and the Centre is the poorer for her passing.

HOME HELPS.

This scheme has been in operation for two years and has proved of great value to a variety of families, ranging from well equipped homes to others less well provided for.

Mrs. Amos worked for us until she had an accident in July. For a few weeks we were without help but Mrs. Braughton was appointed in September and since then there have been continuous applications for the service.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and once weekly at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons.

	LITTLE SUTTON
First visits of mothers 352	142
First visits of infants 288	123
First visits of children, 1—5 years ... 79	20
	<hr/>
	719
	<hr/>
Revisits of mothers 4383	2522
Revisits of infants 3529	2095
Revisits of children, 1—5 years ... 1150	725
	<hr/>
	9062
	<hr/>
	5342
	<hr/>

724 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health.

33 children were referred to Aural, Orthopaedic and eye specialists.

2 children were referred to the Cottage Hospital for Sun Ray treatment.

241 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health in Little Sutton.

12 children were referred to Aural, Orthopaedic, and eye specialists.

Once again we were able to hold our Christmas Party. 60 mothers and 80 children were entertained with tea, a display of dancing by Miss Grace's pupils and the appearance of Father Christmas who was able to give them all a small present. Our thanks are tendered to all who so generously helped us in money and kind to make this an outstanding success, also due to the fact that many of these children had never been able to have a real party before — thanks to the war.

Once again I wish to place on record the sincere thanks of my staff to the ladies who gave such willing and unstinted service to the mothers at the Welfare Centres, and ease the administration by their prompt attention to the duties they undertake.

They, and we shall all be glad when the accommodation for the Welfare Centre at Little Sutton is worthy of the work that is done in that district. The clinic is growing rapidly and the accommodation is so restricted that it hampers the duties carried on there. There is also a difficulty about heating during the winter months. It will be a red letter day in Little Sutton when a Welfare Centre for the district is opened.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

FOSTER CHILDREN.

4 children in the care of 3 mothers are being fostered. In each case the home and children are under the supervision of the Health Visitor and all were satisfactory and well cared for.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT.

16 children have been legally adopted during the year. In 9 of these cases the Maternity and Child Welfare Department was the link between the parent and the adopter. In those cases undertaken by the Adoption Society the Public Health Department have been notified and the Health Visitors asked to supervise the probation period before the adoption finally takes place.

The Adoption Society require a report on the home before the baby is sent, monthly visits to the child when received, and in cases of a child going out of the district a complete medical examination, often carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Ministry's Circular, No. 2866.

In Ellesmere Port Urban District 42 illegitimate children were born in 1945. Of these unmarried mothers 16 attended the Ante-Natal clinic, the remaining 26 being under the supervision of the County Midwives or their own doctor in their homes.

After birth all the children were under the care of the Health Visiting staff. 6 died and 4 were adopted by persons in other towns.

Of the remaining 32, 4 were adopted by mothers in the town and 28 are still in their own homes with their mothers, some of whom go out to work, the babies being cared for by the grandparents.

11 of the children attend the Infant Welfare Centre including the 4 who have been adopted.

There is full co-operation between the Health Visiting Staff, the Education Authority, the Lancashire and Cheshire Adoption Society; that being the nearest Voluntary Organisation, and the Girls' Home in Chester. In all cases of adoption the Health Visitor was the link between the Adoption Society, the private adopter and the mother of the baby.

CLERICAL WORK.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Birth register is kept and a record card made for each child, weekly returns of these births are made for the County Medical Officer and the Registrar. Details of each visit paid are entered on the child's card and any reference to attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre, so that a complete medical history is given to the School Medical Officer on the child's first school medical examination. Nearly 600 births a year mean that 3,000 of these records are made. A daily record of visits is kept. In respect of some of these cases, letters and reports have often to be written.

Welfare Centre.

A register is kept and a record of each attendance, particulars of doctor's consultations and a reference to other clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

A register is kept and a record card of each patient. Admission forms for hospital must be completed, sent weekly, checked on return and entered on the register. A medical certificate is given to each new patient in order that she may obtain her extra clothing coupons, milk, cod liver oil and fruit juice from the Milk Office. A survey is taken each month to ensure regular attendance.

Dental, Aural and Orthopaedic Clinics.

Appointments have to be made, registers kept and records completed.

Infant Life Protection.

A register is kept together with details of each child and its home environment. Much time is spent on interviews and correspondence in relation to these children, especially when adoption is contemplated.

Accounts.

Last year nearly £2,000 was handled by this department. The sale of food entails a great deal of clerical work. Orders have to be sent, stocks checked, accounts checked and verified, signed and submitted to the Accountant, weekly returns made and registered. Interviews and telephone calls occupy a good deal of time for which there is nothing to show.

I would not like to close my report without expressing my appreciation of the work of my colleagues, and in particular of the efficient and helpful way in which the clerical work is done in my department.

It is with great regret that I have to report that Miss Isaacs, now Mrs. Knight, will be leaving her post in the near future. The duties of a clerk in this Department involve more than typing and ordinary clerking as they are of a special nature. I will be grateful therefore if the committee would sanction the appointment of a new clerk before Mrs. Knight leaves in order that she may be instructed in the work and able to carry on with efficiency when left alone.

